(c) Actual inflow of foreign direct investment is monitored by Reserve Bank of India.

Joint Venture Between India and Israel

4608. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether agreements have been proposed to be signed between India and Israel in the industrial sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian industries are also functioning in Israel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Agreements have been proposed to be signed between India and Israel for Cooperation in the field of Industrial and Technological Research and Development and in the Small Industries Sector between National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), India and the Small Business Authority of Israel.

Bilateral agreements between the two countries which have already been signed include the agreement on trade and economic cooperation, agreement between the standards institutes of both countries, agreement on avoidance of double taxation and agreement on investment protection.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Government has granted approval to M/s Indo-Israel Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited, Calcutta for setting up a phosphoric acid manufacturing unit in Israel with an equity investment of US $ 21.84 million. As per information available, the project is under implementation.

[English]

Crisis on Papers

4609. SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the domestic paper industry is facing stiff competition due to import of paper at large scale in the country;

(b) whether the paper industry has piled up a buffer stock with them and is on the verge of closure or cut their production drastically;

(c) if so, the details of such companies, State-wise;

(d) the reasons for importing paper at large scale; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to save the interest of the domestic paper industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e). Domestic paper industry is not facing any stiff competition due to large scale import of paper since the country's demand is mostly met by domestic production. There is also no stock-piling with mills nor of curtailment of production or mills being on the verge of closure, due to the large scale import of paper. The country is broadly self sufficient in meeting its requirement of paper.

However, the Newsprint industry is facing some difficulties. On account of availability of cheaper Imports, the customers are not procuring newsprint from domestic industry, leading to accumulation of stock.

Government is seized of the matter.

Performance of PSUs

4610. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Undertakings have shown higher profit during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the names of such Undertakings and the amount of profit earned by each Public Sector Undertakings during the above period;

(c) the names of Undertakings which have showed losses during the above period; and

(d) the details of losses incurred and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. 130 Public Sector Undertakings have shown higher profits of Rs. 12124 crores during 1994-95 as compared to profit earned by 121 PSUs of Rs. 9768 crores during 1993-94. The names of PSUs which have shown profits during 1994-95 are given in the Statement 7-A of Volume-I of the Public Enterprises Survey 1994-95 laid in both Houses of Parliament on 19.7.96.

(c) and (d). 109 PSUs have incurred loss during 1994-95 as compared to loss by 116 PSUs during 1993-94. The names of the Public Sector Undertakings which have shown losses during the above period are given in the Statement 7-B of Volume-I of the Public Enterprises Survey 1994-95. The reasons for the losses are usually enterprise specific. However, some of the common causes of losses are excess manpower, old & obsolete plant & machinery, outdated technology, erratic power supply, mechanical break-downs, high interest burden, high initial investment, stiff competition with the private sector, low capacity utilization etc.